

reason why it should not be the object of a rational loyalty and derive from that loyalty a power for good as great as any despotism ever had for evil: the great obstacle is organized faction, to which people have become so accustomed as to receive with derision any suggestion that free institutions can exist without it. Serious reflection, however, if we mistake not, has commenced among those who think for themselves and have no personal interest in the spoils.

—Sir Leonard Tilley has the pleasure of bringing in a prosperity budget. His tariff has amply fulfilled its primary object by not only raising the revenue to the level of the expenditure, but producing a surplus, and, so far as that part of the matter is concerned, he is entitled to sound the loudest timbrel of financial jubilation, as well as to take credit for his personal achievement. But we hope he is not lapsing into the belief that taxation makes a country rich. Certain persons, of course, may be made rich by taxing the community in their interest. Apart from this, there is much in the general adjustment of tariffs to the exigencies of national industry. But it is preposterous to suppose that the mass of the people can be made wealthy by adding to their fiscal burdens. Another fallacy, against which the speech of the Finance Minister suggests the need of a warning, is the assumption that the present burst of prosperity is sure to last for ever. Its causes are the revival of the lumber trade, and two good harvests, with a great demand for grain in Europe. We have yet to see even whether it is not in part factitious and the mere result of a faith in the magical potency of the N. P. which leads to the sudden multiplication of works and factories. Now is the time for laying by, and, if possible, reducing the load of debt. Instead of that the estimates are increased, the debt is increased, and we drive faster than ever on the downward road.

During this hard winter the sufferings of the people in our Western cities from want of fuel have been great, and they